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STATE FOR AF/S GABRIELLE MALLORY  
STATE FOR INR/AA  
STATE FOR ACOTA

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SUBJ: ACOTA TRAINING CLOSES

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1.(U) The African Contingency Operations and Training Assistance (ACOTA) program wrapped up its three-week training in Malawi on February 24 with a battalion-wide evacuation exercise. Malawi Defense Force (MDF) personnel expressed their gratitude for the training, and hope that similar assistance will follow in the future.

2.(U) The composite battalion was led by Lieutenant Colonial Vincent Nundwe, who was trained as an IMET student in the U.S. in 1986-87, including a Special Forces training course at Fort Bragg and Pathfinder and Airborne courses at Fort Benning.

3.(U) The battalion and consisted of five companies from throughout Malawi. The training involved around 930 troops the first week, before dropping to around 750 for the second and final weeks due to illnesses, observer mission deployments, and personal reasons. The battalion included a composite company that will soon replace the company currently with the U.N. mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Post was pleased with the ACOTA mission, and looks forward to continued cooperation with the ACOTA office.

EASTHAM